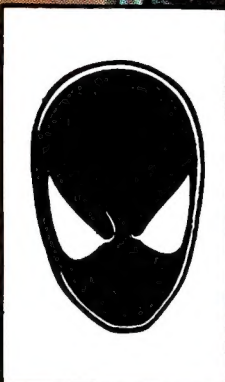




THE NEW MUTANTS

65¢
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29
JULY



SUNSPOT
— vs. the —
GLADIATORS
— to the —
DEATH!

"Shadamedafas"

(I TRAVELED 369,484,278,025 MILES FOR REESE'S PIECES.)



So he buys quite a few to take back with him. He says his mother loves the out-of-this-world peanut butter taste of Reese's Pieces and so does XYTOPUV, his cousin.

MEANWHILE,



BACK AT THE MANSION...

WESTCHESTER
COUNTY
AIRPORT...

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WRITER

BILL SIENKIEWICZ
ARTIST

ORZECZOWSKI & ROSEN
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GLYNIS OLIVER
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ANN NOCENTI
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EDITOR IN CHIEF

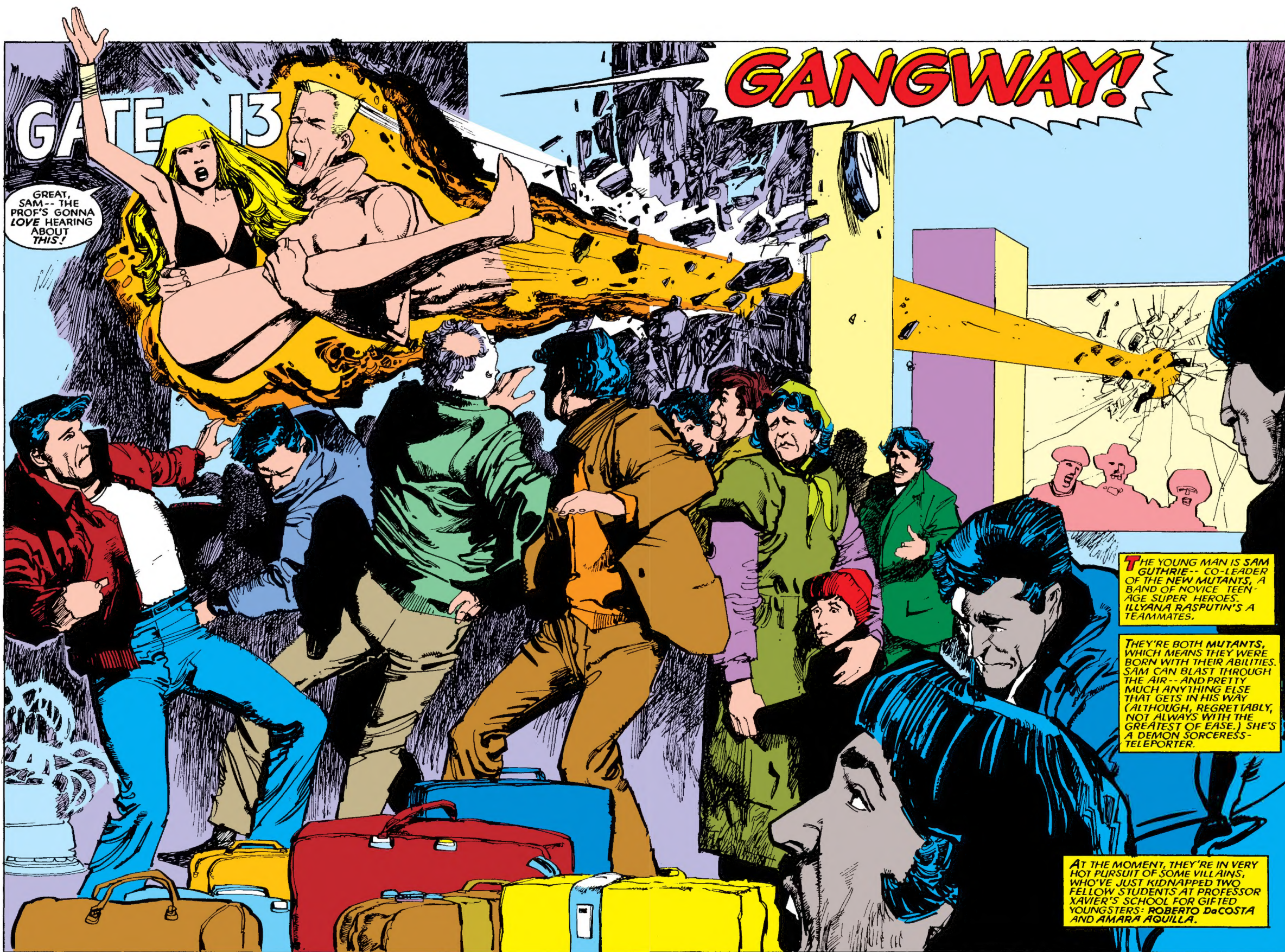
A **STAN LEE**
PRESENTATION--
STARRING THE
NEW MUTANTS

...ON A QUIET WINTER'S MORNING, WHEN A MILD, ON-GOING SNOWFALL HAS CUT BACK FLIGHT OPERATIONS TO A MINIMUM AND THOSE PILOTS AND PASSENGERS WHO HAVEN'T HEADED HOME-- ON HEARING THE WEATHER FORECAST THAT THIS STORM IS EXPECTED TO WORSEN INTO A BLIZZARD--

--HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN WINGS OF WESTCHESTER, THE TERMINAL LOUNGE, TO TALK SHOP AND SPIN EVER MORE OUTRAGEOUS YARNS OVER HOT SPICED CIDER OR HOTTER, SPICIER TODDIES.

BUT THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, AMIDST THE HUSTLING, BUSTLING LAUGHTER AND GOOD CHEER...

THE NEW MUTANTS™ Vol. 1, No. 29, July, 1985. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1985 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 65¢ per copy in the U.S. and 75¢ in Canada. Subscription rate \$7.80 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$9.80. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. **THE NEW MUTANTS** (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO NEW MUTANTS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.** Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices.



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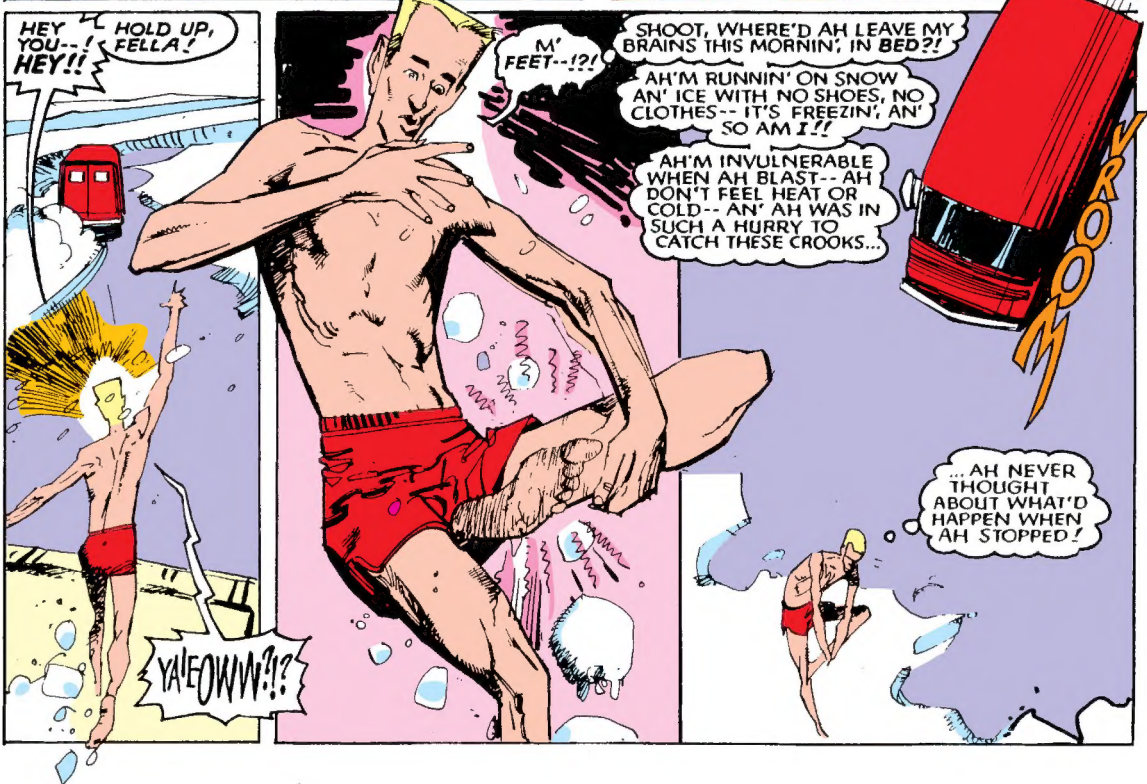
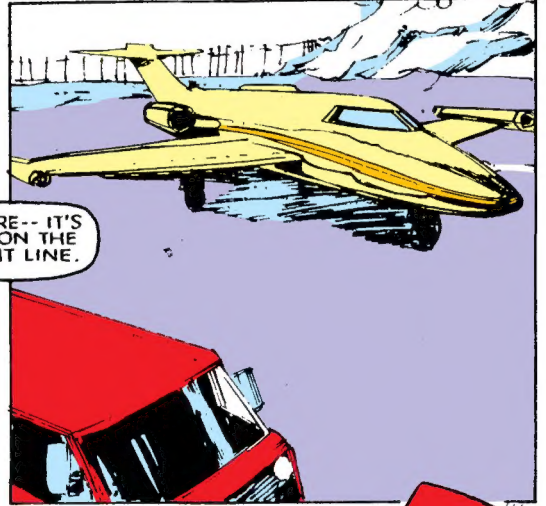
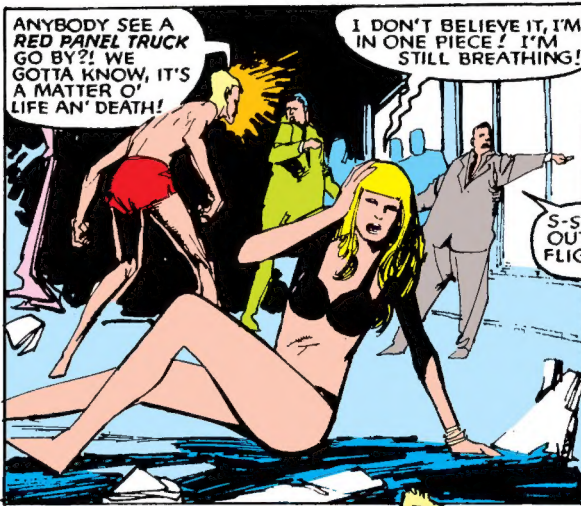
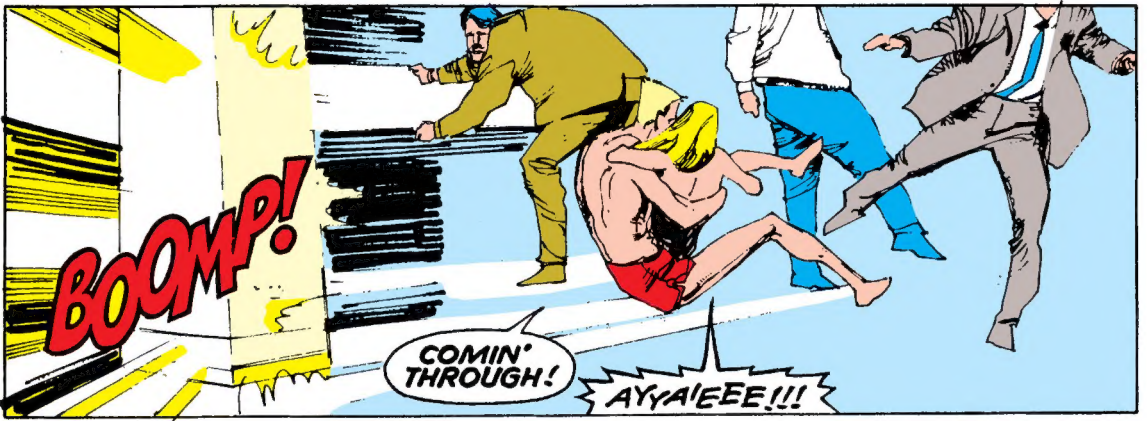
GREAT, SAM-- THE PROF'S GONNA LOVE HEARING ABOUT THIS!

GANGWAY!

THE YOUNG MAN IS SAM GUTHRIE-- CO-LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS, A BAND OF NOVICE, TEEN-AGE SUPER HEROES. ILLYANA RASPUTIN'S A TEAMMATES.

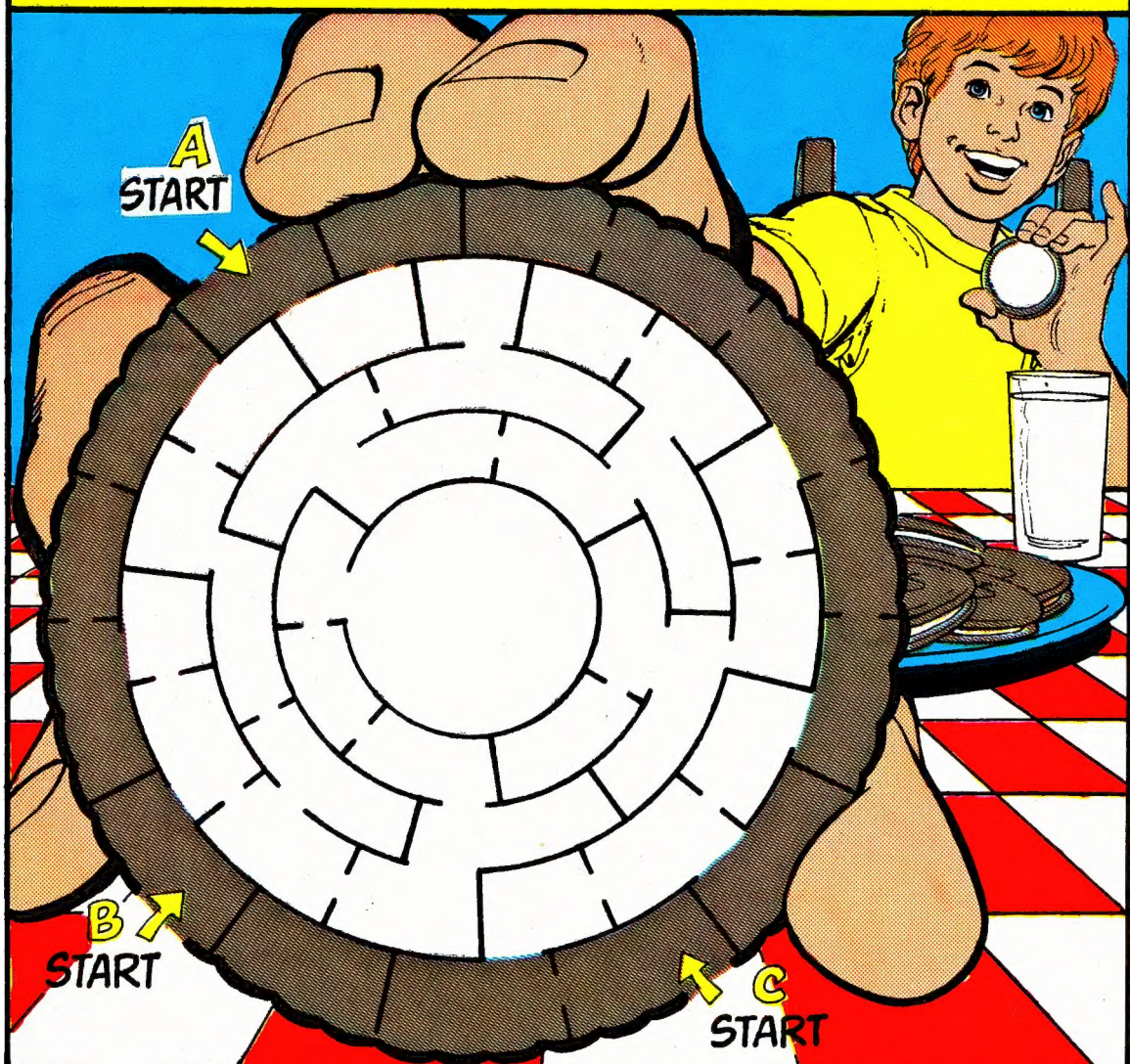
THEY'RE BOTH MUTANTS, WHICH MEANS THEY WERE BORN WITH THEIR ABILITIES. SAM CAN BLAST THROUGH THE AIR-- AND PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING ELSE THAT GETS IN HIS WAY (ALTHOUGH, REGRETTABLY, NOT ALWAYS WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE.) SHE'S A DEMON SORCERESS-TELEPORTER.

AT THE MOMENT, THEY'RE IN VERY HOT PURSUIT OF SOME VILLAINS, WHO'VE JUST KIDNAPPED TWO FELLOW STUDENTS AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS: ROBERTO DaCOSTA AND AMARA AGUILLA.



WHICH WAY?

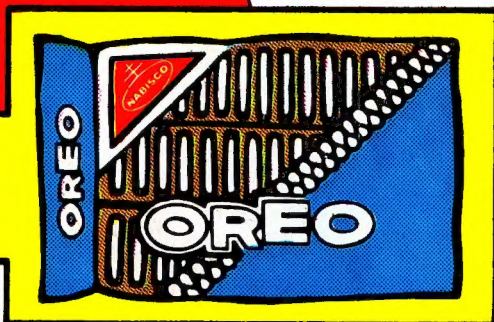
TO THE CREAMY CENTER
OF A CRUNCHY **OREO**® CHOCOLATE SANDWICH COOKIE.

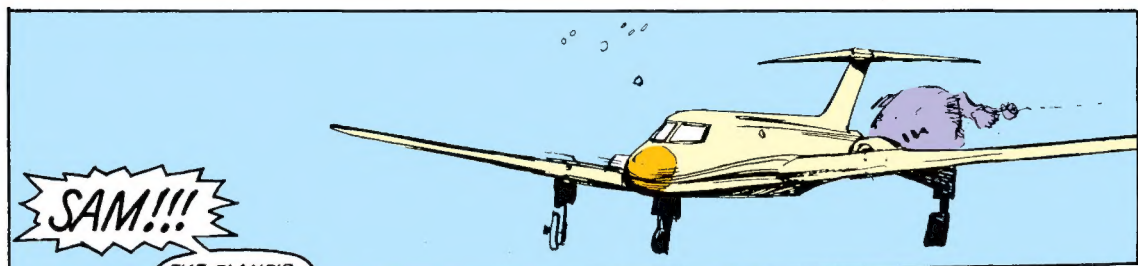


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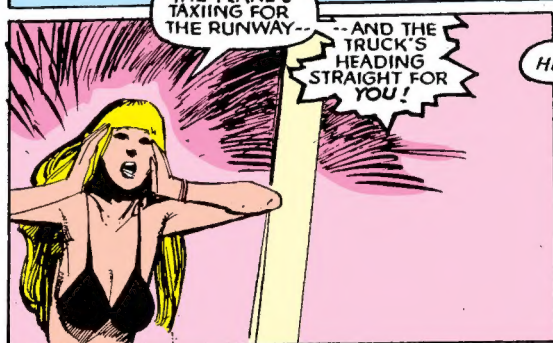


ANSWER: B



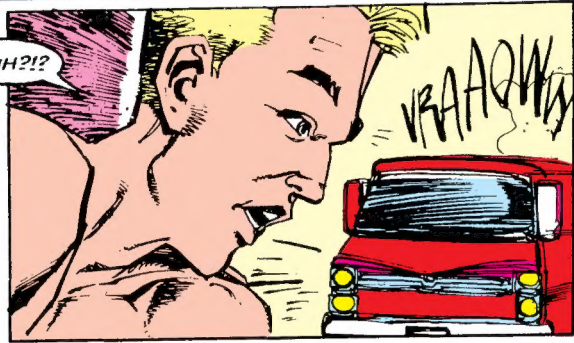


SAM!!!



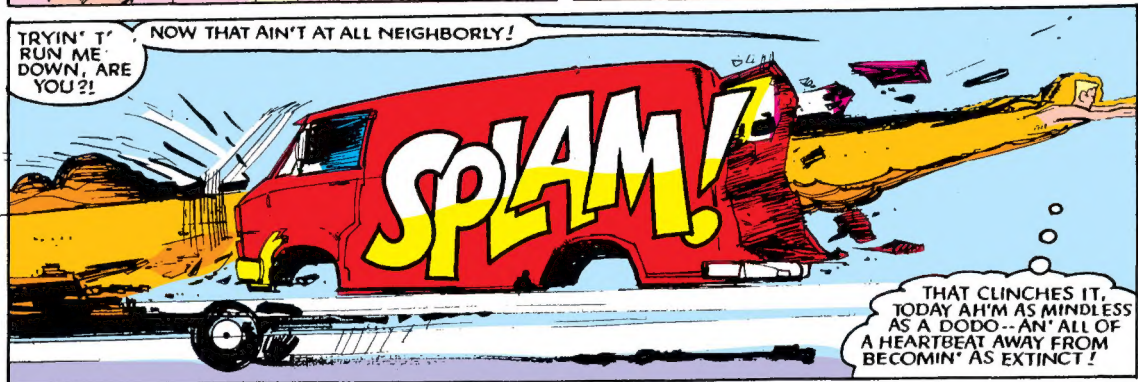
THE PLANE'S TAXIING FOR THE RUNWAY--

--AND THE TRUCK'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR YOU!



HUH?!?

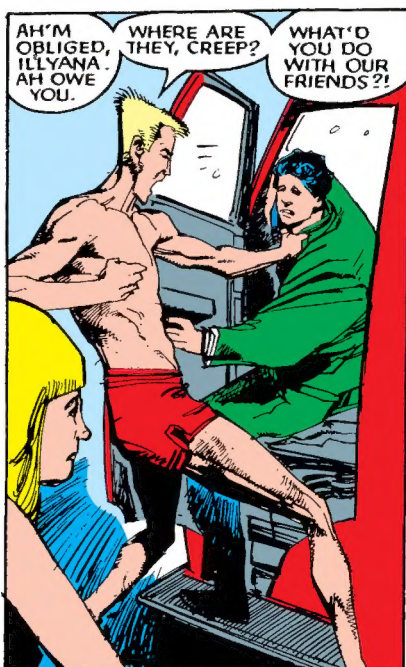
VRAAOWW



TRYIN' T' RUN ME DOWN, ARE YOU?!

NOW THAT AIN'T AT ALL NEIGHBORLY!

THAT CLUNCHES IT. TODAY AH'M AS MINDLESS AS A DODO-- AN' ALL OF A HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM BECOMIN' AS EXTINCT!



AH'M OBLIGED, ILLYANA. AH OWE YOU.

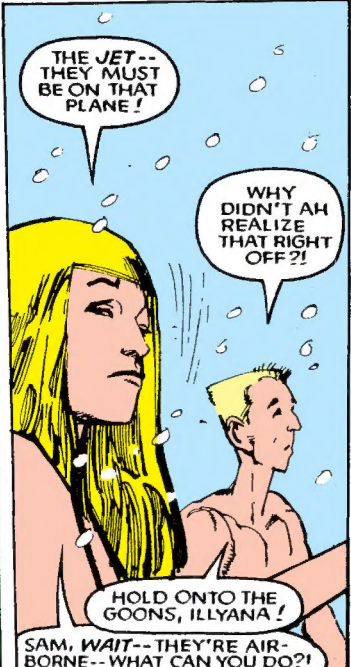
WHERE ARE THEY, CREEP?

WHAT'D YOU DO WITH OUR FRIENDS?!



WHAT FRIENDS?!

I DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT, PUNK!



THE JET-- THEY MUST BE ON THAT PLANE!

WHY DIDN'T AH REALIZE THAT RIGHT OFF?!

HOLD ONTO THE GOONS, ILLYANA!

SAM, WAIT-- THEY'RE AIRBORNE-- WHAT CAN YOU DO?!

Swap-a-Joke
Sweepstakes
WIN PRIZES!

Tootsie Roll

Swap-a-Joke Sweepstakes

INSIDE SPECIALLY
MARKED WRAPPERS

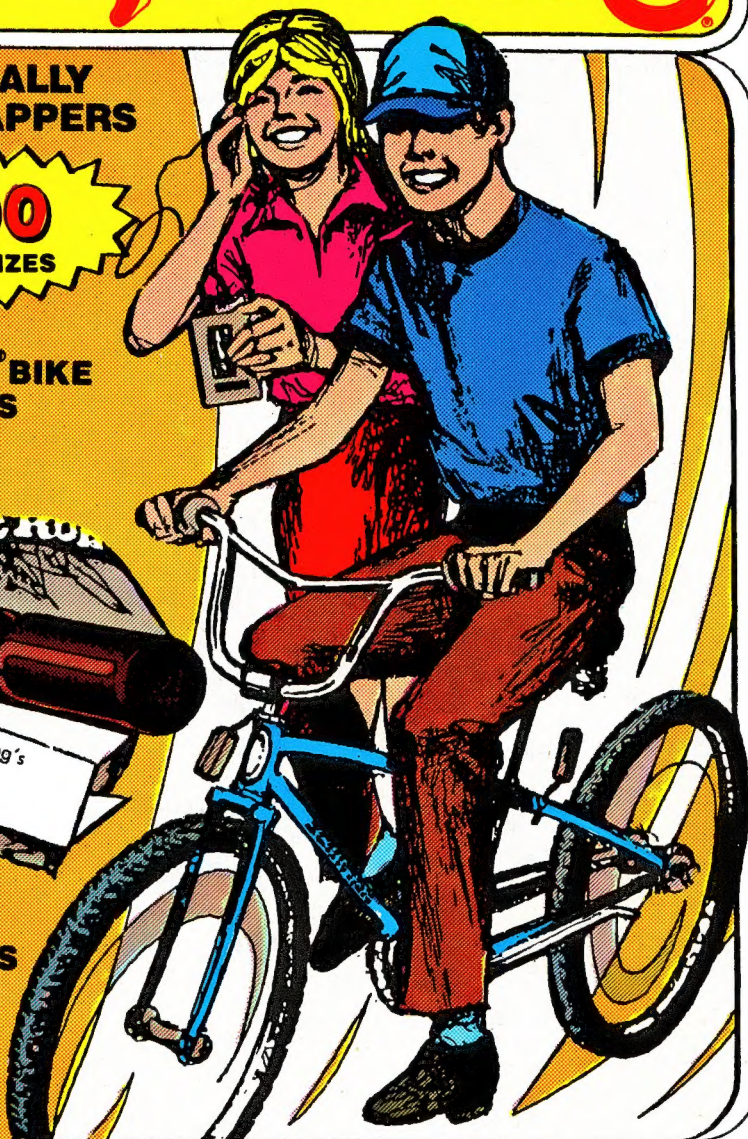
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STEREO
COLLECT JOKES
NUMBERED
1 thru 18

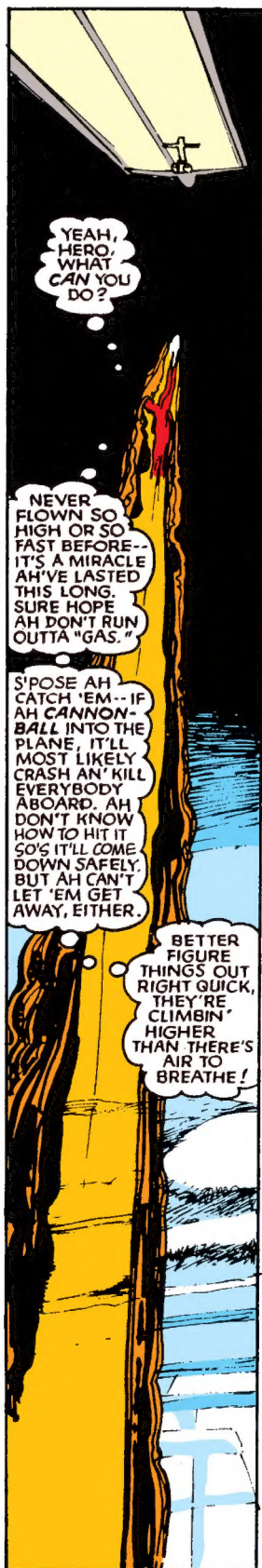


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No purchase necessary. All specially marked bars of Tootsie Rolls include numbered jokes on inner tray game card. Save game cards and when you have all jokes 1 through 36, you win a Schwinn bicycle. If you have jokes 1 through 18, you win a Sheraton AM/FM Stereo Compact Cassette player. Game ends June 27, 1986, or when supply of game cards is exhausted, whichever occurs first. To obtain randomly selected free game cards (limit 8 per envelope), send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Tootsie Roll Game Tray, P.O. Box 3554 Libertyville, IL 60198. Washington State residents need not send stamp. Requests must be received by June 27, 1986.

To claim a prize, send joke game cards (1 through 36 or through 18) together with your name and address via certified mail to: Tootsie Roll Prize Claim, P.O. Box 2250, Libertyville, IL 60198. Only one joke per game card and each joke must appear in its entirety within four-sided border. All such claims must be received by December 31, 1986. Not responsible for lost, late or misdirected mail, mutilated, defaced, or altered trays. Unclaimed prizes will not be awarded. Winner verification of H. Olsen & Co., an independent judging organization will be final. All submissions are property of Tootsie Roll Industries. Game open to residents of USA, except employees and

their families of Tootsie Roll Industries, and its advertising and promotional agencies. Void wherever prohibited. Proof of eligibility and advertising consent may be required. No substitutions of prizes. Taxes are responsibility of winners. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to parent or legal guardian. Odds of winning bicycle are 1 in 8600. Odds of winning Stereo Cassette player are 1 in 2150. Odds statement based on presence of one rare numbered joke for the AM/FM Stereo Cassette player and two rare numbered jokes for bicycle. Limit one prize per household. 5,000 bicycles and 20,000 AM/FM Stereo Cassette player prizes will be available. Total prize value \$1,250,000.

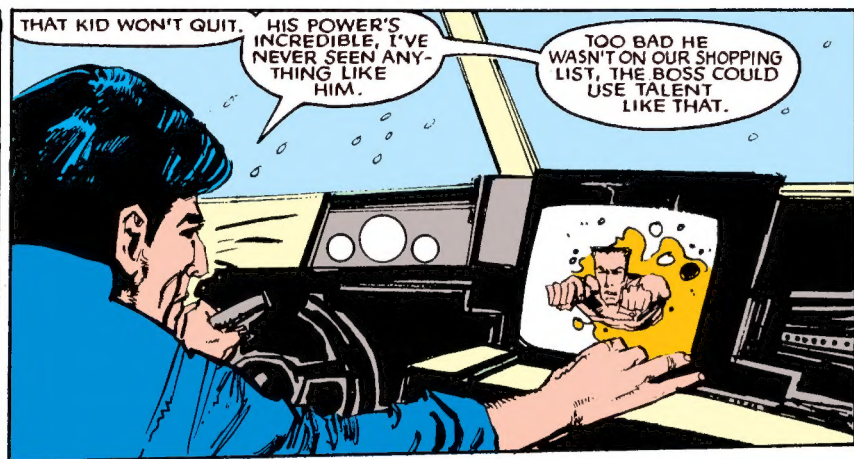


YEAH, HERO, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

NEVER FLOWN SO HIGH OR SO FAST BEFORE-- IT'S A MIRACLE AH'VE LASTED THIS LONG. SURE HOPE AH DON'T RUN OUTTA "GAS."

S'POSE AH CATCH 'EM-- IF AH CANNON-BALL INTO THE PLANE, IT'LL MOST LIKELY CRASH AN' KILL EVERYBODY ABOARD. AH DON'T KNOW HOW TO HIT IT SO'S IT'LL COME DOWN SAFELY. BUT AH CAN'T LET 'EM GET AWAY, EITHER.

BETTER FIGURE THINGS OUT RIGHT QUICK, THEY'RE CLIMBIN' HIGHER THAN THERE'S AIR TO BREATHE!



THAT KID WON'T QUIT.

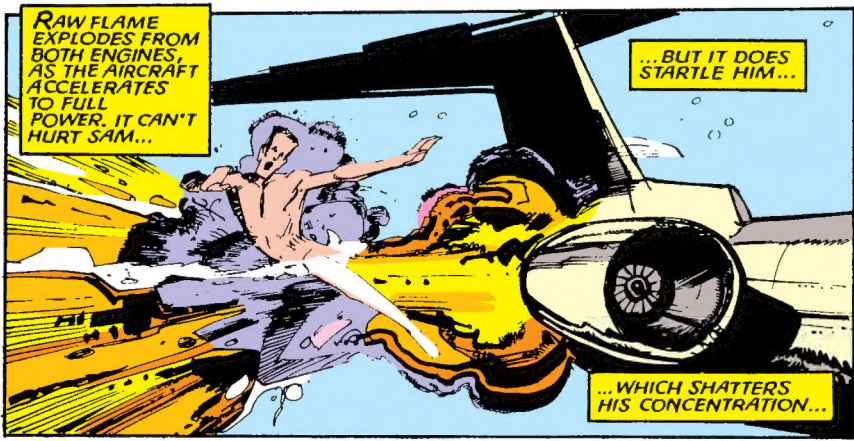
HIS POWER'S INCREDIBLE, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE HIM.

TOO BAD HE WASN'T ON OUR SHOPPING LIST, THE BOSS COULD USE TALENT LIKE THAT.



C'EST LA VIE!

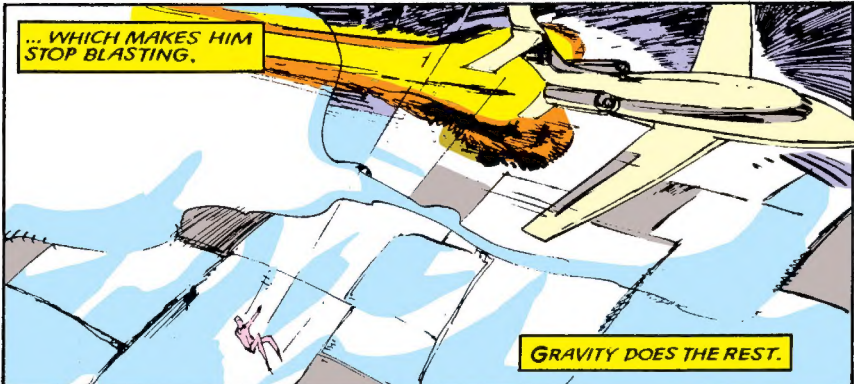
HE'S CLOSE ENOUGH-- LET'S SEE HOW HE HANDLES A FACE FULL OF AFTERBURNER.



RAW FLAME EXPLODES FROM BOTH ENGINES, AS THE AIRCRAFT ACCELERATES TO FULL POWER. IT CAN'T HURT SAM...

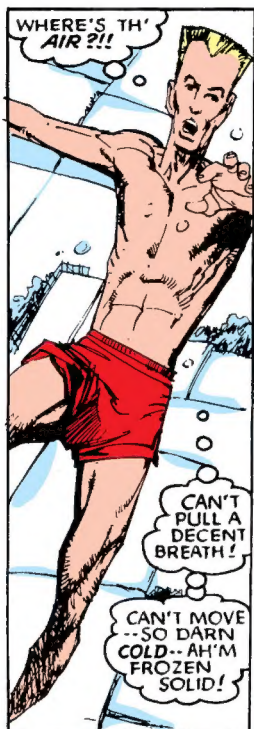
... BUT IT DOES STARTLE HIM...

... WHICH SHATTERS HIS CONCENTRATION...



... WHICH MAKES HIM STOP BLASTING.

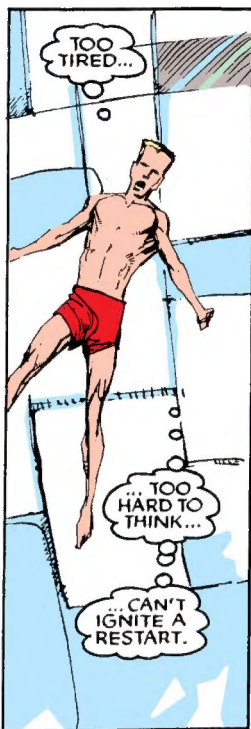
GRAVITY DOES THE REST.



WHERE'S TH' AIR?!!

CAN'T PULL A DECENT BREATH!

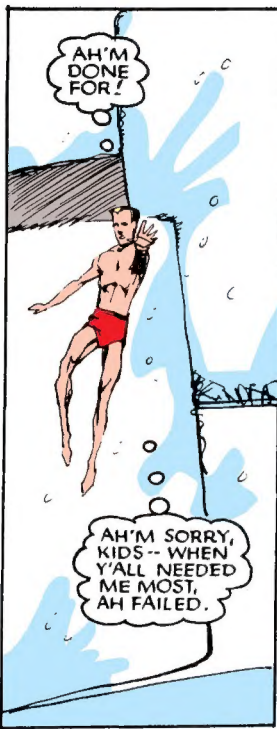
CAN'T MOVE -- SO DARN COLD -- AH'M FROZEN SOLID!



TOO TIRED...

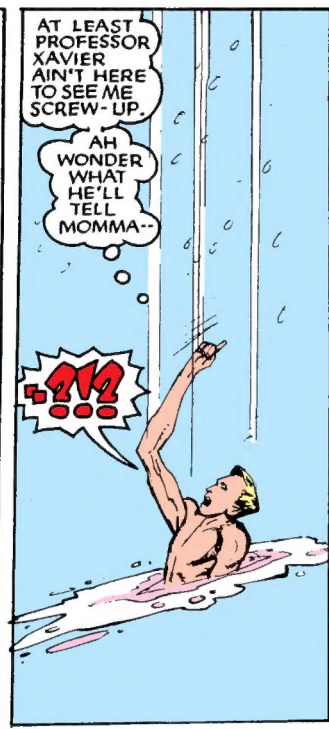
... TOO HARD TO THINK...

... CAN'T IGNITE A RESTART.



AH'M DONE FOR!

AH'M SORRY, KIDS -- WHEN Y'ALL NEEDED ME MOST, AH FAILED.



AT LEAST PROFESSOR XAVIER AIN'T HERE TO SEE ME SCREW-UP.

AH WONDER WHAT HE'LL TELL MOMMA--

!?!?



A STEPPIN' DISK!

ILLYANA, YOU TELEPORTED ME TO LIMBO!

AND USED MY MAGICKS TO THAW YOU OUT. FEELING BETTER, I HOPE?

JUS' FINE -- GOOD AS NEW.

THAT'S TWICE AH OWE YOU.

I DON'T KEEP SCORE.

I THOUGHT WE MIGHT ENJOY A PRIVATE CHAT WITH OUR GUEST BEFORE HANDING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE.

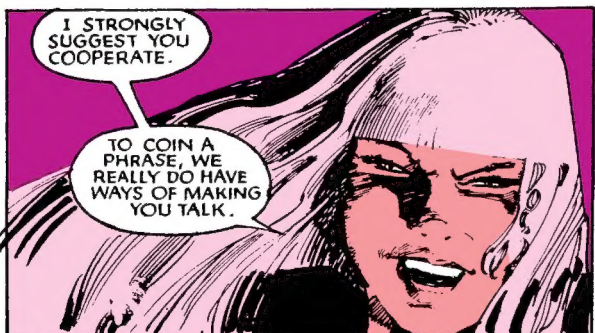


WHAT IS THIS PLACE, WHERE AM I?!



LIMBO, CHUMP!

AN' WE'RE ASKIN' THE QUESTIONS!



I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU COOPERATE.

TO COIN A PHRASE, WE REALLY DO HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU TALK.

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BIG HAIRY DEAL-- I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SCARED OF A COUPLE'A SKINNY GEEKS?!

BUT YOU MISUNDERSTAND. NEITHER SAM NOR I WILL HANDLE YOUR INTERROGATION.

DO YOUR WORST, SWEETHEART, YOU DON'T GET WORD ONE FROM ME!

I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE, MISTER, REALLY I DO-- ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET A CHANCE TO PROVE IT.

SHE LEAVES THE DIRTY WORK TO S'YM.

I'LL TALK!

SOMETIME LATER...

WE CAN'T DO THIS ON OUR OWN, IT'S CRAZY!

WHAT CHOICE HAVE WE?!

THE PROFESSOR AND THE X-MEN ARE AWAY-- BY THE TIME WE GATHER EVERYBODY, BOBBY AND AMARA COULD BE ANYWHERE! SAM, THEY COULD BE DEAD!!

OUR BEST BET IS FOR ME TO TELEPORT US AFTER THEM, WE MIGHT EVEN BEAT THAT JET TO L.A.

YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR POWER OVER THOSE KINDS OF DISTANCES!

I CAN TOO. I'VE BEEN PRACTICING!

FAMOUS LAST WORDS.

YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA?! YOU'RE THE TEAM LEADER, YOU COME UP WITH SOMETHING!

WHILE S'YM'S MISTRESS IS AWAY, YOU'LL BE LEFT IN S'YM'S TENDER CARE-- LOOKIN' FORWARD TO THAT, eh, GONNA BE A LOTTA FUN? O' COURSE, SHE DON'T COME BACK--

--OR WORSE, COMES BACK MAD...

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AM I GOOD, OR WHAT?!

COULD'A WISHED FOR A LESS CONSPICUOUS PLACE T' LAND.

SOME PEOPLE ARE NEVER SATISFIED!

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THE KIDNAPING! YOU SHIFTED US IN TIME AS WELL AS SPACE!

ILLYANA-- LOOK AT THAT PAPER! LOOK AT THE DATE!!

I'LL TAKE US BACK TO LIMBO AND TRY AGAIN!

NO!!

BEST LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.

HANG ON, GIRL, WHILE AH BLAST US OUTTA HERE.

WHAT THE--?!

LOOK THAT!

WHERE'S MY CAMERA?

WHERE'S GEORGE LUCAS?

MUST BE FILMING A MOVIE!

NEAT!

SHOW-OFFS!

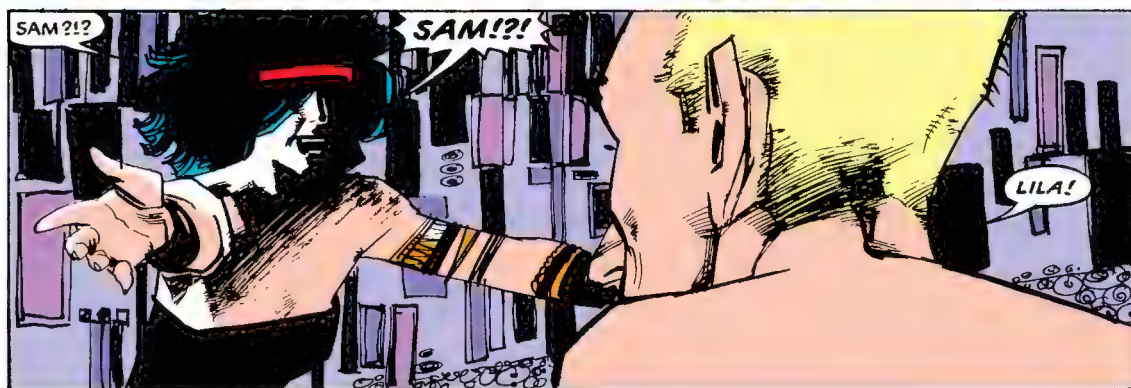
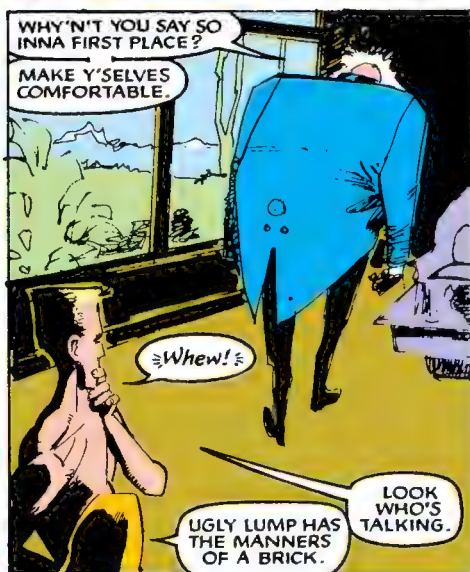
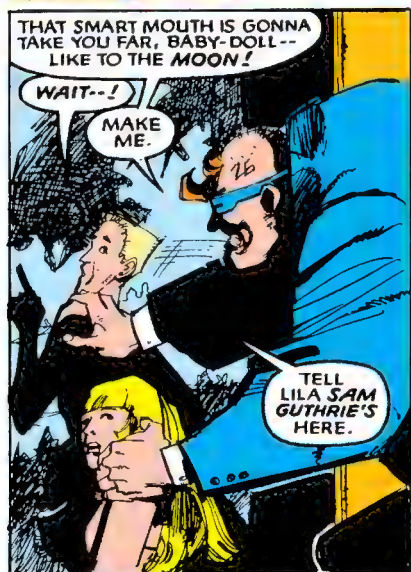
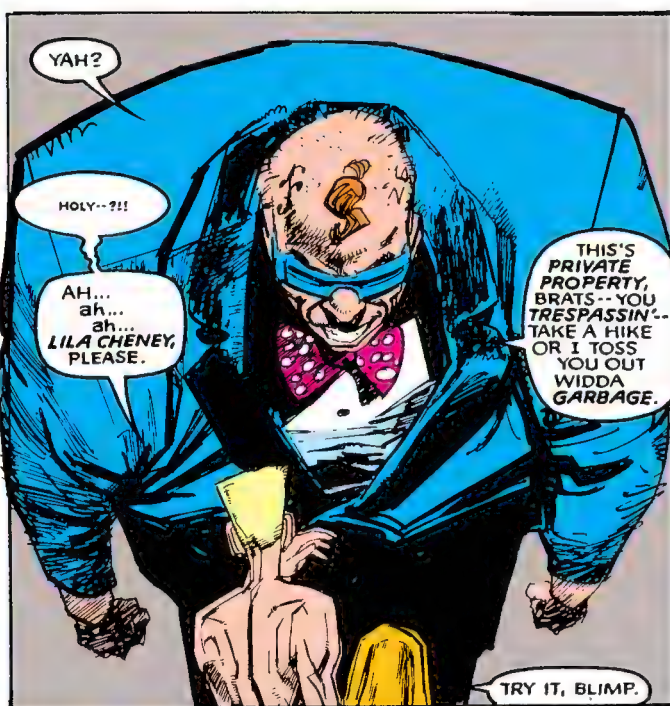
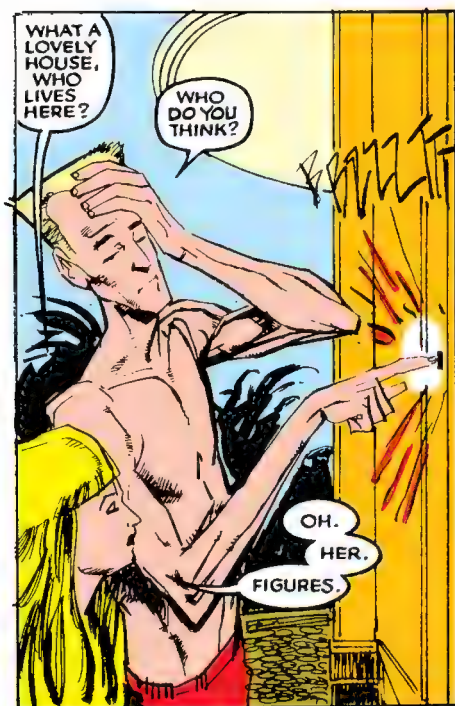
WAYTAGO!

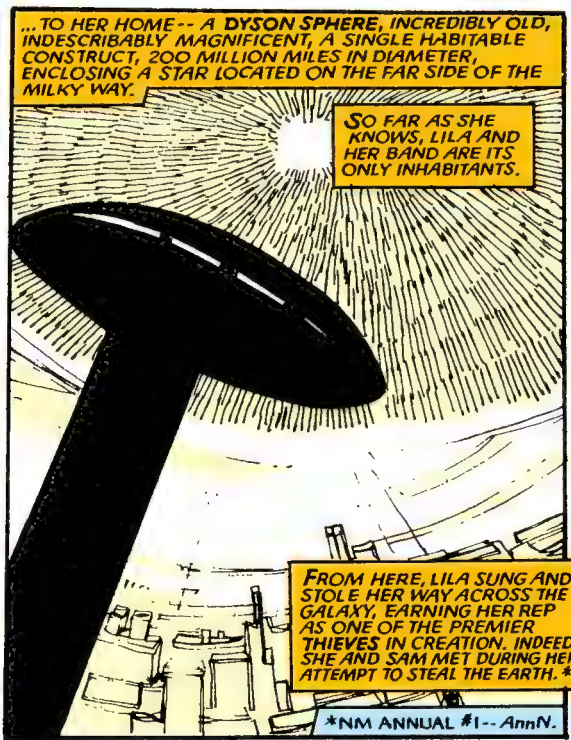
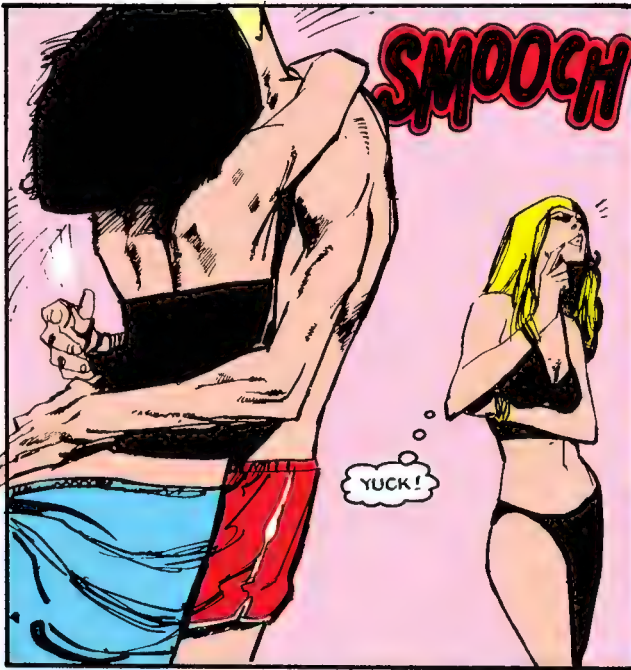
I'M SORRY, SAM-- I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED, BUT I WAS SO SURE!

IT'S DONE, PARTNER, NO USE MOANIN'-- AH KNOW YOU MEANT WELL.

NOTHIN' TO DO NOW BUT PICK UP THE PIECES AN' START AGAIN. FOR THAT, WE'RE GONNA NEED HELP.

LUCKILY, AH THINK AH GOT A PRETTY FAIR IDEA WHERE TO GET SOME.





LATER... I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU I'M *THE* ALISON BLAIRE, BUT I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T HIRE ME.

SO MANY PEOPLE WON'T ONCE THEY DISCOVER I'M *THE DAZZLER*, THE INFAMOUS MUTANT.

I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WERE ONE, TOO.

ISN'T EVERYBODY, THESE DAYS?

SOMETIMES, WE SEEM TO BE POPPING OUT OF THE FLIPPING WOODWORK!

SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, SAM? YOU'RE VERY TENSE.

AH 'PRECATE THE CHANGE O' CLOTHES, LILA--

-- BUT THESE REALLY AIN'T MY STYLE.

TRUE-- MYSELF, I MUCH PREFER WHAT YOU WERE WEARING BEFORE.

LILA-- NOT WHEN THERE'RE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND, F'R CRYIN' OUT **LOUD!!**

ANYWAY, WHAT HAPPENED WAS WE'D BEEN INVITED TO A SWIM PARTY AT THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL, ONLY IT TURNED OUT T' BE A SET-UP. WHEN WE ARRIVED, THESE GOONS CAME OUTTA NOWHERE AN' GRABBED BOBBY AN' AMARA. ILLYANA AN' ME, WE WENT AFTER 'EM, BUT THEY GOT AWAY. MY FAULT.

FROM OUR SOLE PRISONER, WE LEARNED THEY WORKED FOR AN OUTFIT CALLED **THE GLADIATORS**, BASED IN LOS ANGELES.

OUR HOPE WAS THAT-- WITH YOUR CONNECTIONS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY-- YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE US A LINE ON WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE AND WHERE THEY'RE BASED.

I WISH I COULD, ILLYANA-- I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE STOLEN, AND SOLD-- BUT I ONLY JUST ARRIVED IN TOWN MYSELF, TO CUT A NEW ALBUM.

THAT NAME MEANS NOTHING TO ME.

IT DOES TO ME. YOUR FRIENDS ARE IN DEADLY DANGER.

I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE GLADIATORS-- BECAUSE I USED TO BE ONE OF THEM.

SOMEWHERE ELSE--

I WANT
AMARA!

BRING HER
TO ME--
ALIVE AND
UNHARMED--
NOW-- OR BY
ALL I HOLD
HOLY...



I'LL
SMASH
YOUR
PRECIOUS
PRISON TO
RUBBLE!

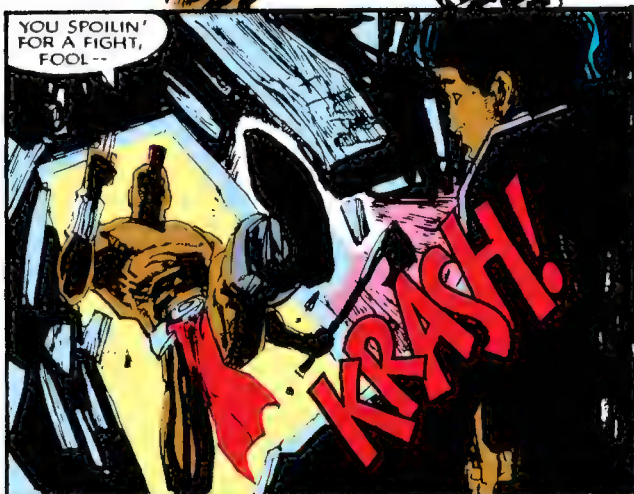
I WONDER IF THEY
KNOW I'M BLUFFING?
MY SUPER-STRENGTH
DERIVES FROM SUN-
LIGHT-- CUT OFF FROM
IT, INSIDE THIS BUILDING,
IT WON'T TAKE MUCH
TIME OR EFFORT TO
REDUCE IT TO ZERO.



WHY AM I HERE--
WHEREVER THAT
IS-- WHAT DO
THESE SWINE
WANT-- EH?!!



YOU SPOILIN'
FOR A FIGHT,
FOOL--



KRAASH!

-- TRY
ME!

AXE!



SMART BOY,
YOU REMEMBER! *

*THEY MET IN
NM #7-- A.

HOW COULD
ANYONE
FORGET...

... SO UGLY AND STUPID A LUMMOX?

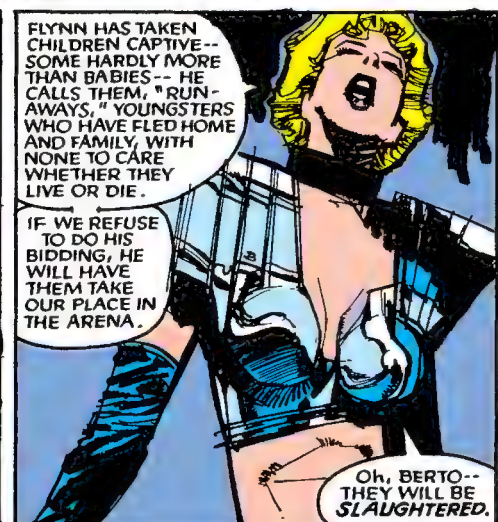
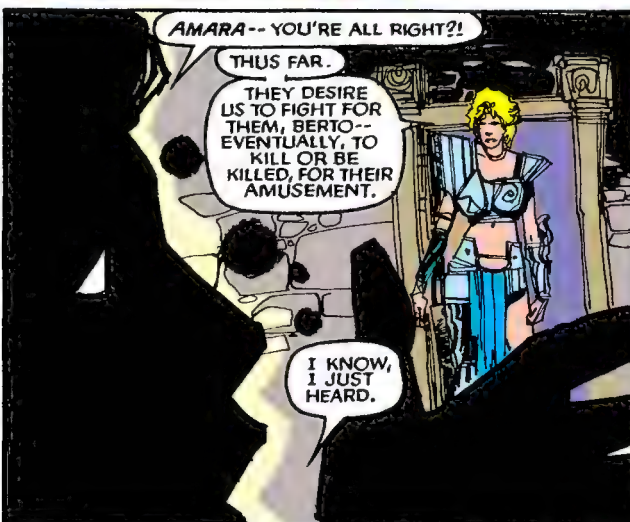
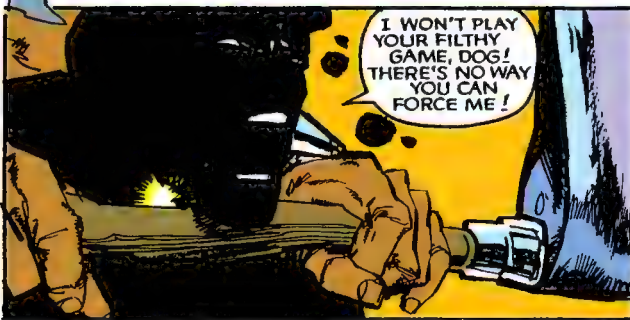
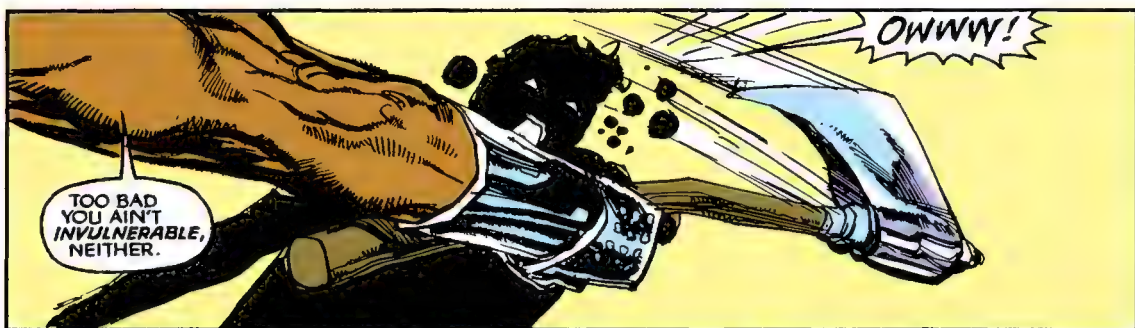


YOU AIN'T
CHANGED
NONE, YOU
STILL
FIGHTIN'
WITH YOUR
MOUTH.

AIN'T YOU LEARNED YOU CAN
MAYBE SMASH MOUNTAINS--
BUT ONLY IF THEY STAND
STILL AN' LET YOU?!



HE
ROLLED
WITH MY
PUNCH!
I HARDLY
TOUCHED
HIM!





NICE GUYS.

THEY ARE AS RUTHLESSLY CRUEL AS THE SLAVEMASTERS OF THE COLISEUM IN MY HOME, *NOVA ROMA*.



I REMEMBER, BUT EVEN THOUGH THINGS LOOKED PRETTY BLEAK FOR THE NEW MUTANTS BACK THEN, WE STILL MANAGED TO ESCAPE-- THIS WILL BE NO DIFFERENT, YOU'LL SEE.

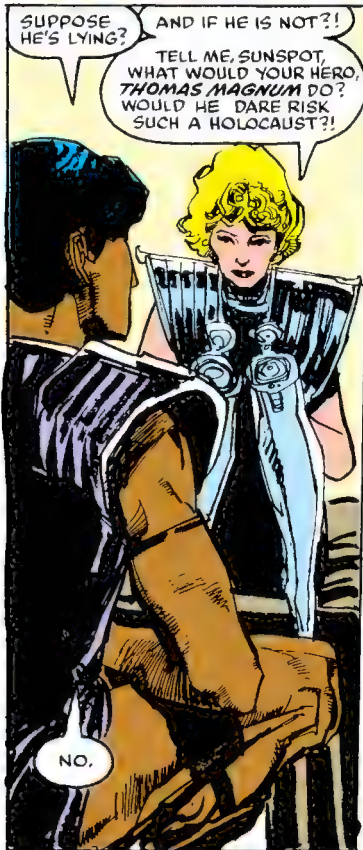
I PRAY SO, MY FRIEND.



BUT IT SEEMS SO HOPELESS!

THIS DEVIL, FLYNN, HAS LEFT NOTHING TO CHANCE. HE KNOWS OF OUR POWERS-- AND HAS GIVEN US SOME DRUG THAT WEAKENS OUR CONTROL OVER THEM.

THE LONGER AND MORE INTENSELY WE USE THEM, THE WILDER THEY--AND WE--WILL BECOME, UNTIL WE'RE MORE LIKE BEASTS THAN PEOPLE.

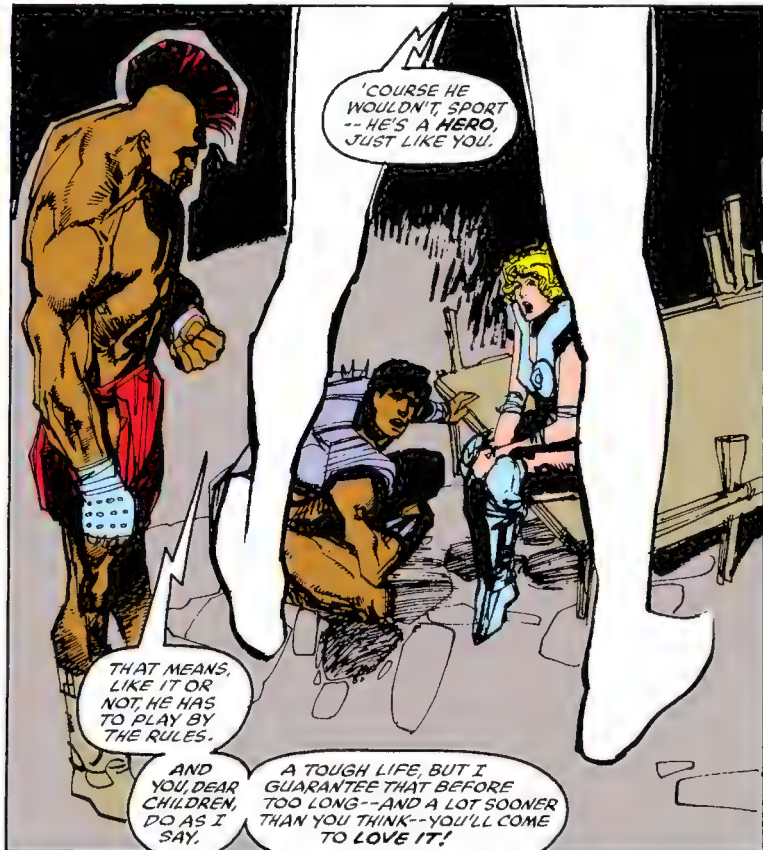


SUPPOSE HE'S LYING?

AND IF HE IS NOT?!

TELL ME, SUNSPOT, WHAT WOULD YOUR HERO, *THOMAS MAGNUM* DO? WOULD HE DARE RISK SUCH A HOLOCAUST?!

NO.

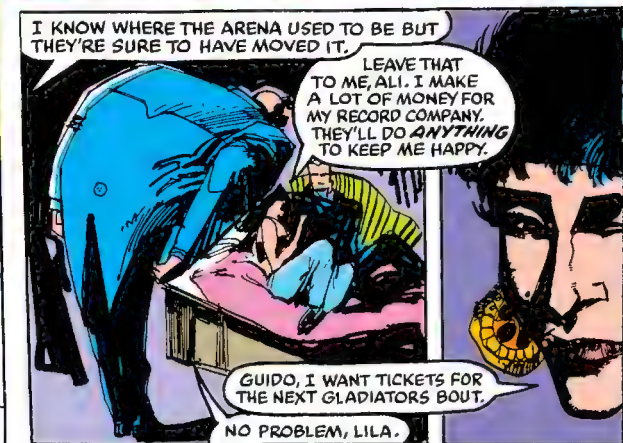
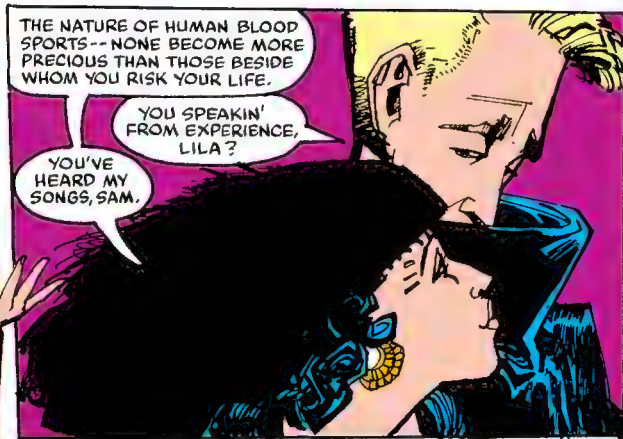
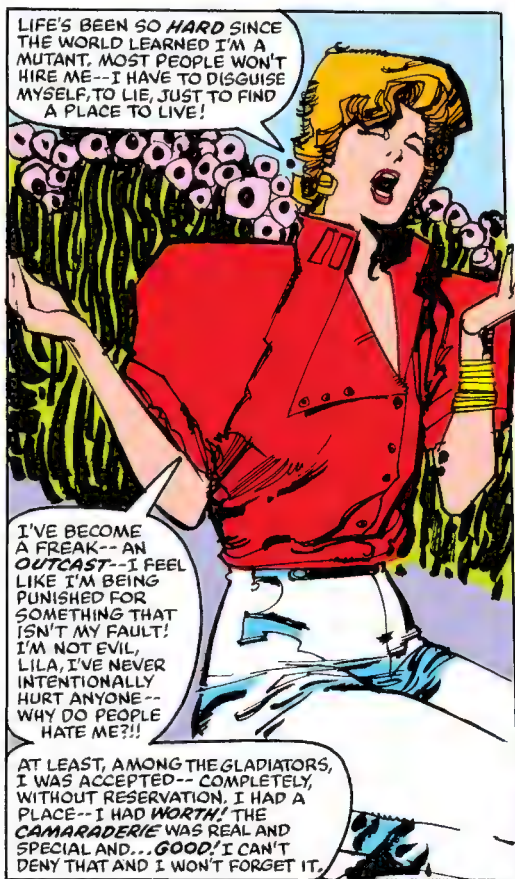
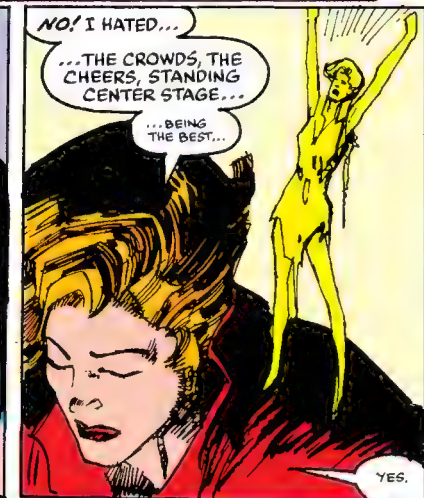


'COURSE HE WOULDN'T, SPORT -- HE'S A *HERO*, JUST LIKE YOU.

THAT MEANS, LIKE IT OR NOT, HE HAS TO PLAY BY THE RULES.

AND YOU, DEAR CHILDREN, DO AS I SAY.

A TOUGH LIFE, BUT I GUARANTEE THAT BEFORE TOO LONG--AND A LOT SOONER THAN YOU THINK--YOU'LL COME TO LOVE IT!



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TO YOU,
AND YOU
HAVE A
RIGHT TO
DECIDE HOW
AND WHEN
ANYONE
TOUCHES
YOU!

IF SOMEBODY
TRIES TO TOUCH YOU
IN WAYS THAT DON'T
FEEL GOOD OR SEEM
RIGHT, **SAY NO!**

YEAH! AND
BE SURE TO
TELL
SOMEBODY,
TOO!

AND, DON'T FORGET, IF
THE FIRST PERSON YOU TELL
DOESN'T BELIEVE YOU, KEEP
TELLING UNTIL YOU FIND
SOMEONE WHO DOES!

AND REMEMBER,
IF THIS HAPPENS, IT'S
**NOT YOUR
FAULT!**

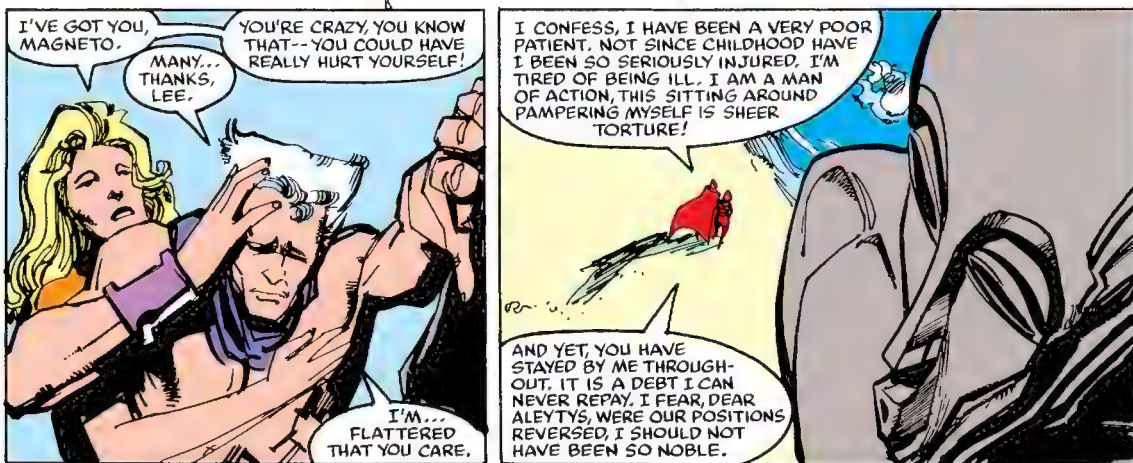
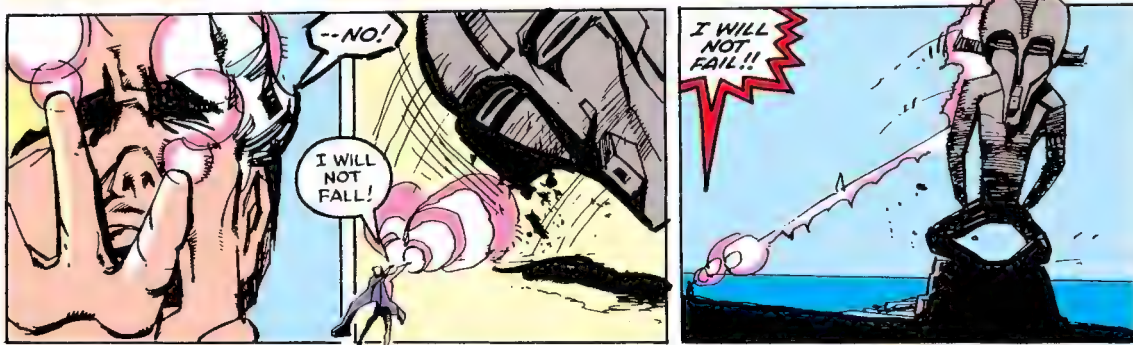
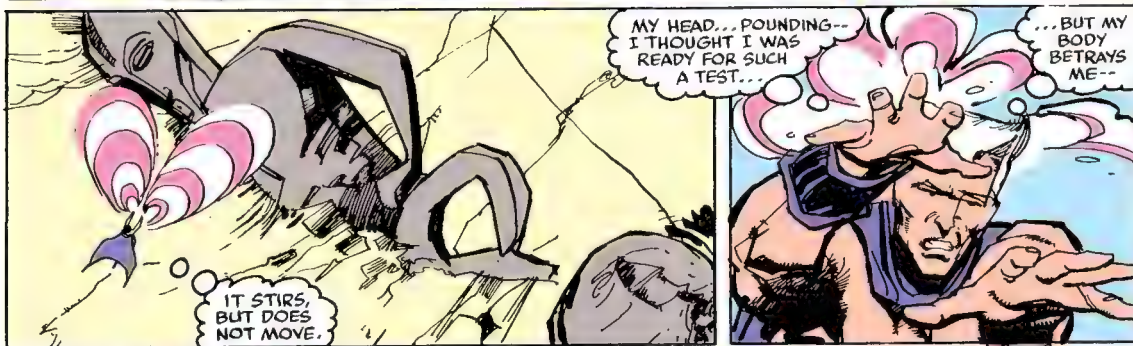
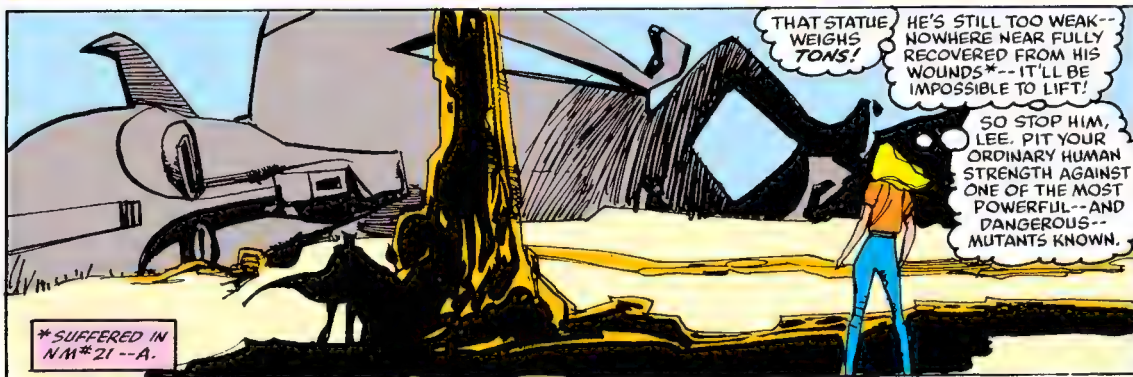
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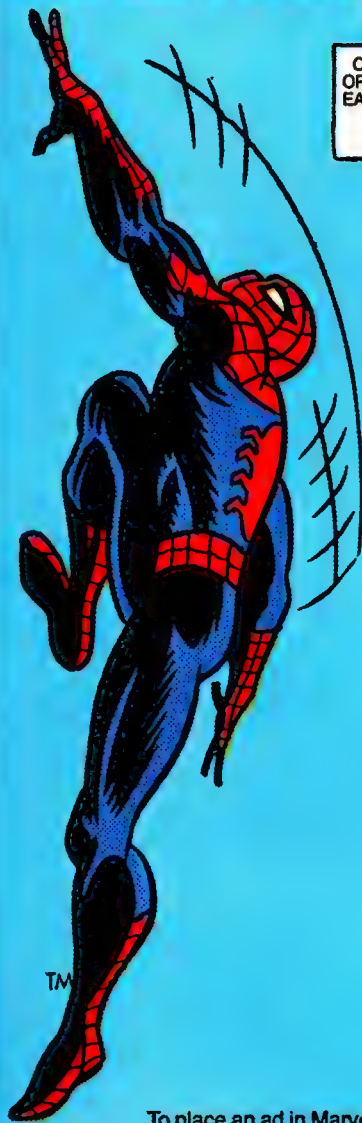
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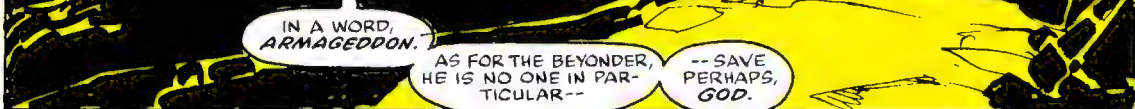
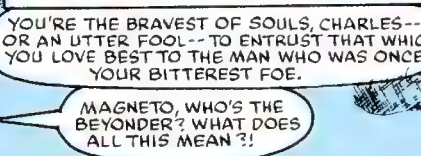
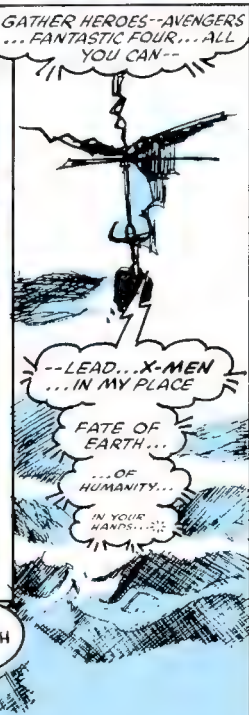
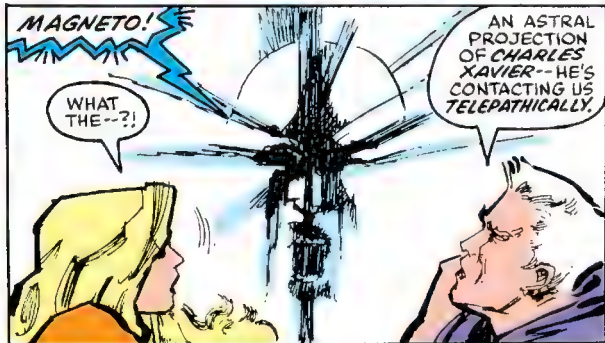
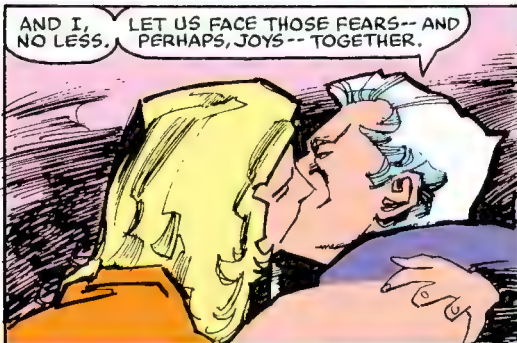
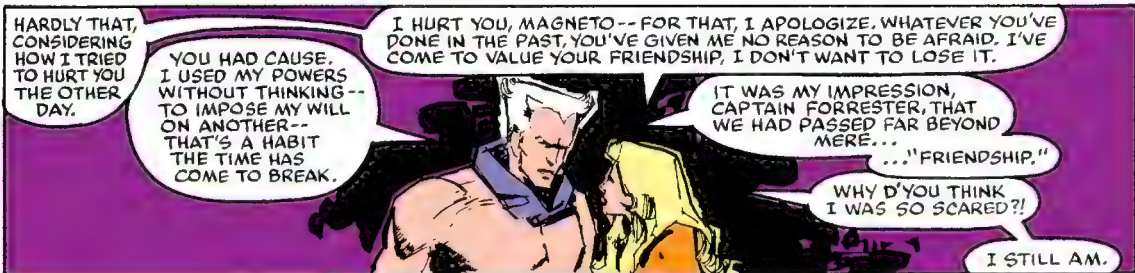
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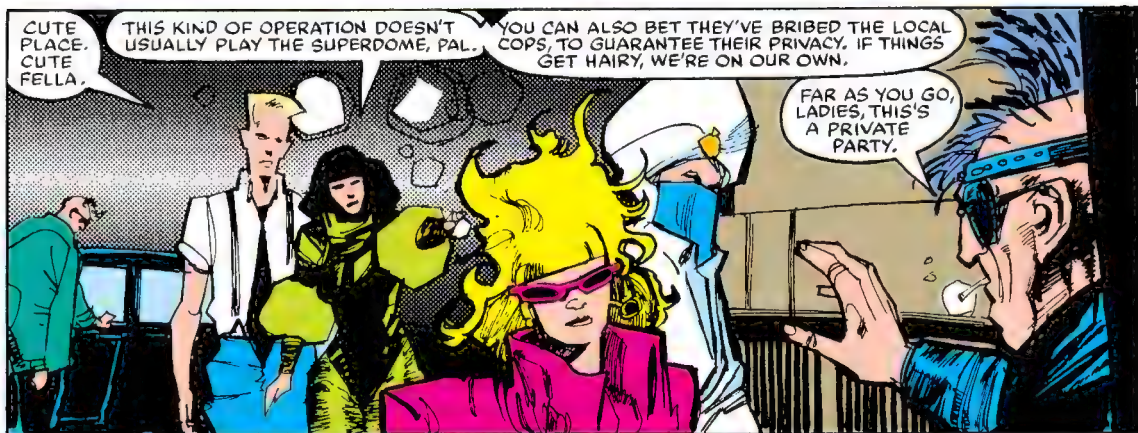
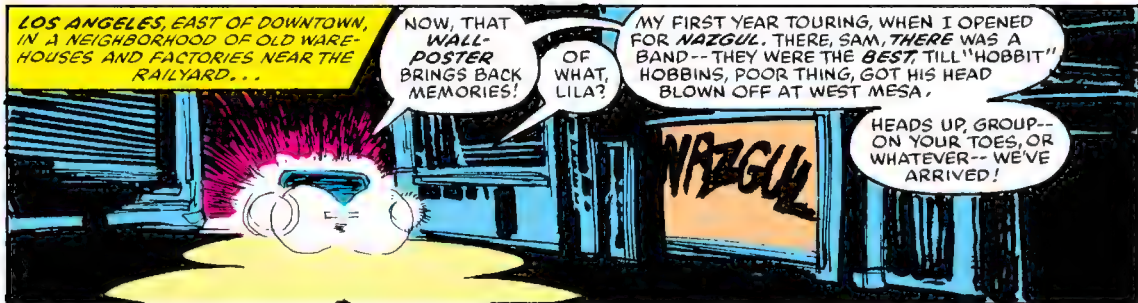
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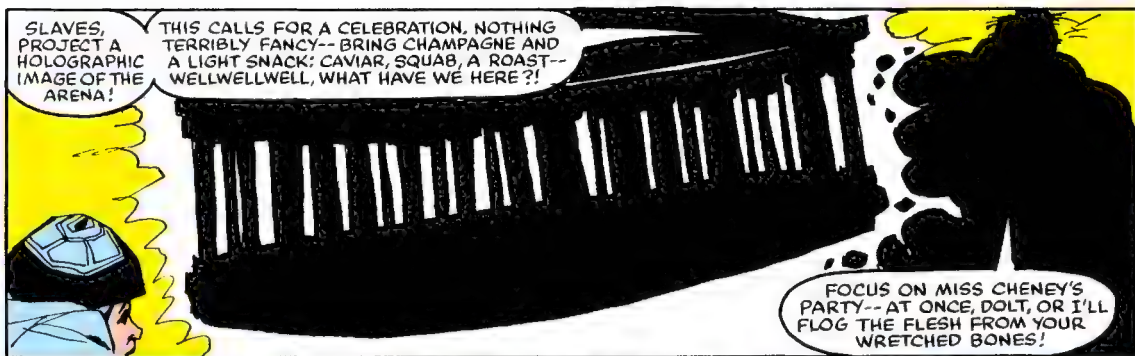
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SLAVES, PROJECT A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF THE ARENA!

THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION, NOTHING TERRIBLY FANCY-- BRING CHAMPAGNE AND A LIGHT SNACK; CAVIAR, SQUAB, A ROAST-- WELLWELLWELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE ?!

FOCUS ON MISS CHENEY'S PARTY-- AT ONCE, DOLT, OR I'LL FLOG THE FLESH FROM YOUR WRETCHED BONES!



SAM GUTHRIE-- LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS-- BETTER AND BETTER!

THEY MUST HAVE COME TO AID THEIR CAPTIVE FRIENDS.



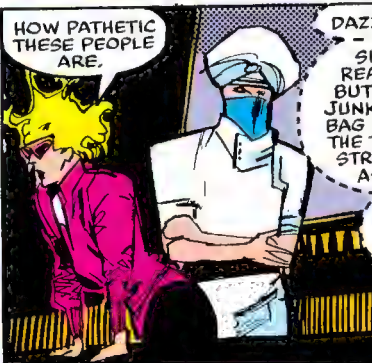
LOOK AT THIS CROWD!

TOO RICH, TOO BORED, TOO DESPERATE FOR THRILLS.



ALERT THE GLADIATORS WE HAVE MOST SPECIAL GUESTS. I WANT THEM GIVEN A SHOW THEY WILL NEVER FORGET.

IT WILL END WITH THEIR JOINING US!

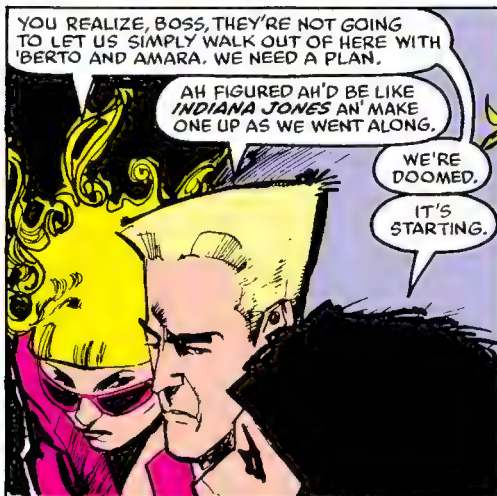


HOW PATHETIC THESE PEOPLE ARE.

DAZZ LOOKS PRETTY EDGY.

SHE MAY NOT REALIZE IT, SAM, BUT SHE'S AN EX-JUNKIE HOLDING A BAG OF PUREST HEROIN. THE TEMPTATION IS AS STRONG WITHIN HER AS THE HORROR.

WATCH HER, LUV-- SHE'S OUR WEAK LINK.



YOU REALIZE, BOSS, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET US SIMPLY WALK OUT OF HERE WITH 'BERTO AND AMARA. WE NEED A PLAN.

AH FIGURED AH'D BE LIKE INDIANA JONES AN' MAKE ONE UP AS WE WENT ALONG.

WE'RE DOOMED.

IT'S STARTING.

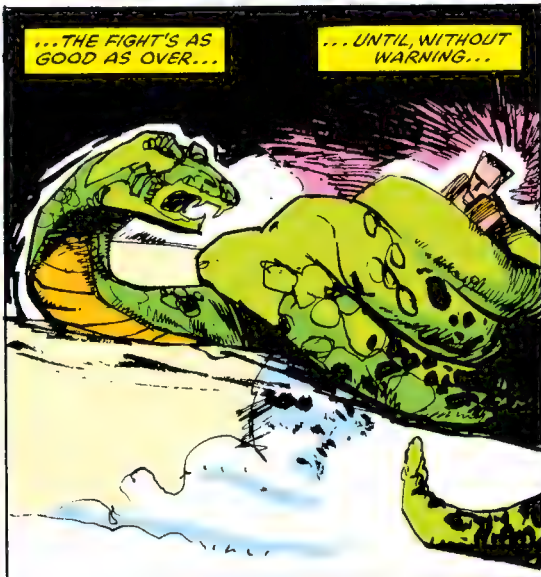
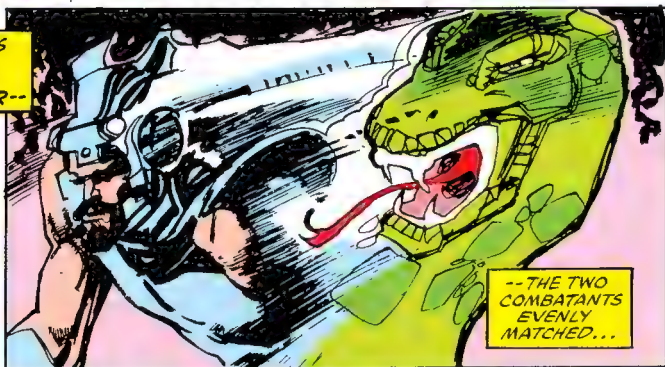
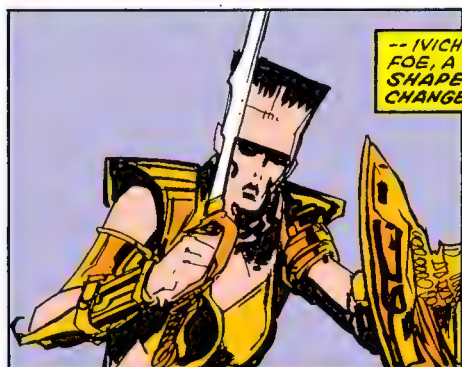
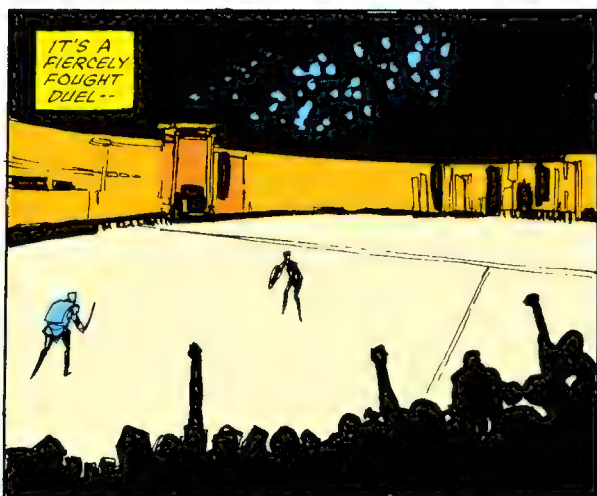
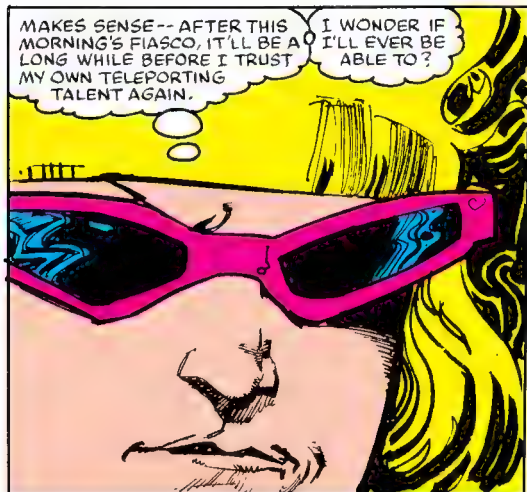


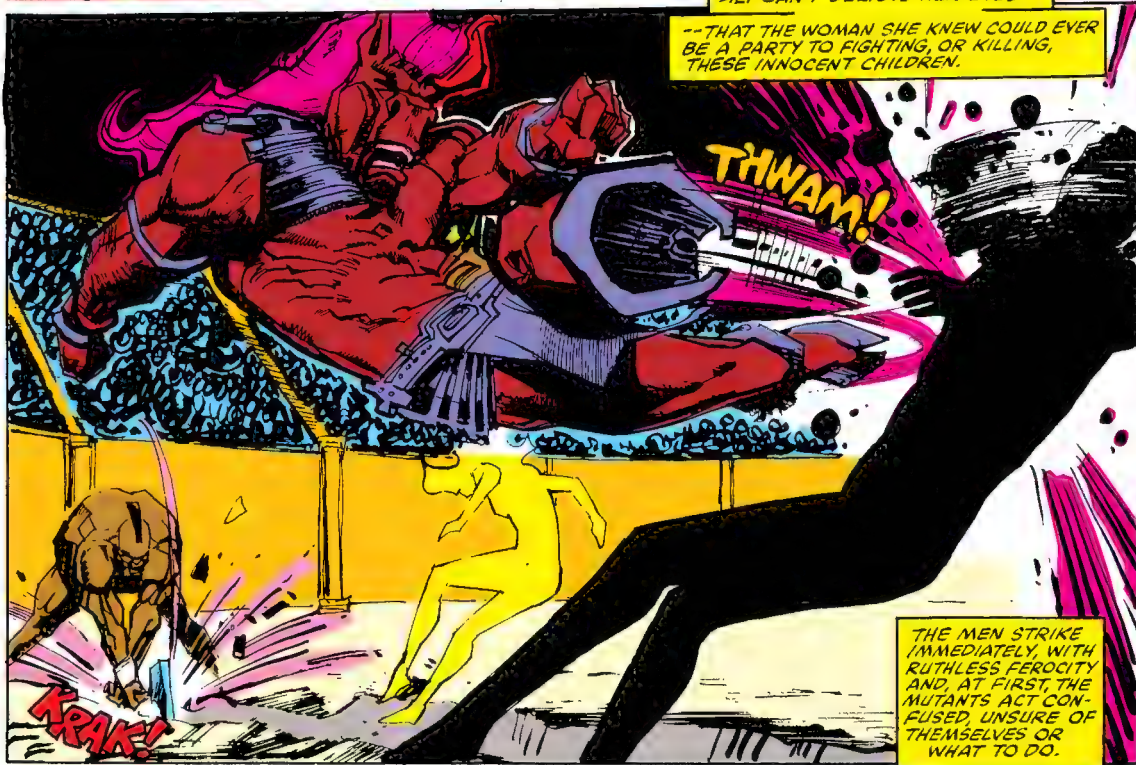
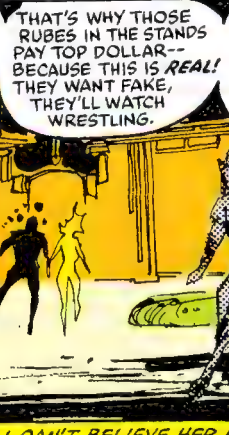
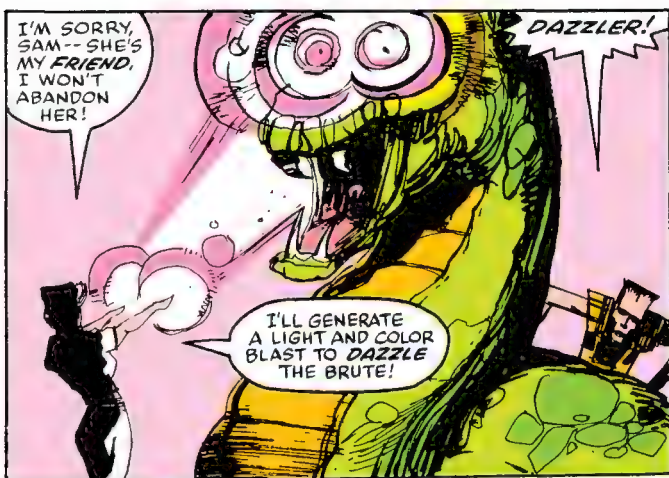
TARANTULA



THAT WOMAN IN THE ARENA-- SHE'S MY FRIEND, IVICH!

ACTUALLY, THE IDEA IS TO GRAB THE KIDS AN' HAVE LILA TELEPORT US ALL TO HER DYSON SPHERE. NO MUSS, NO FUSS-- IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, WE GONE.





ALI CAN'T BELIEVE HER EYES--
-- THAT THE WOMAN SHE KNEW COULD EVER BE A PARTY TO FIGHTING, OR KILLING, THESE INNOCENT CHILDREN.

THE MEN STRIKE IMMEDIATELY, WITH RUTHLESS FEROCITY AND, AT FIRST, THE MUTANTS ACT CONFUSED, UNSURE OF THEMSELVES OR WHAT TO DO.

BUT THEN, THEIR TRAINING REASSERTS ITSELF--
MAGMA COUNTER-ATTACKING...



...BY PULLING A FOUNTAIN OF
MOLTEN ROCK FROM DEEP WITHIN
THE EARTH TO CREATE A MINI-
VOLCANO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
ARENA.

TAKE A HIKE, HORSEFACE! THIS
BOUT'S JUST BEEN *CALLED*!

WHAT THE HECK IS WITH AMARA?!
SHE CAME CLOSE TO *FRYIN'* THAT WOMAN!

CRIPES--THIS REMINDS ME OF WHEN
BOBBY 'N' ME WERE GLADIATORS IN
NOVA ROMA! WE WERE DRUGGED,
SO WE'D GO CRAZY IN THE COLOSSEUM
AN' TRY TO KILL EACH OTHER EVEN
THOUGH WE WERE BUDDIES!

HAS THE SAME
HAPPENED HERE,
TO THEM??!



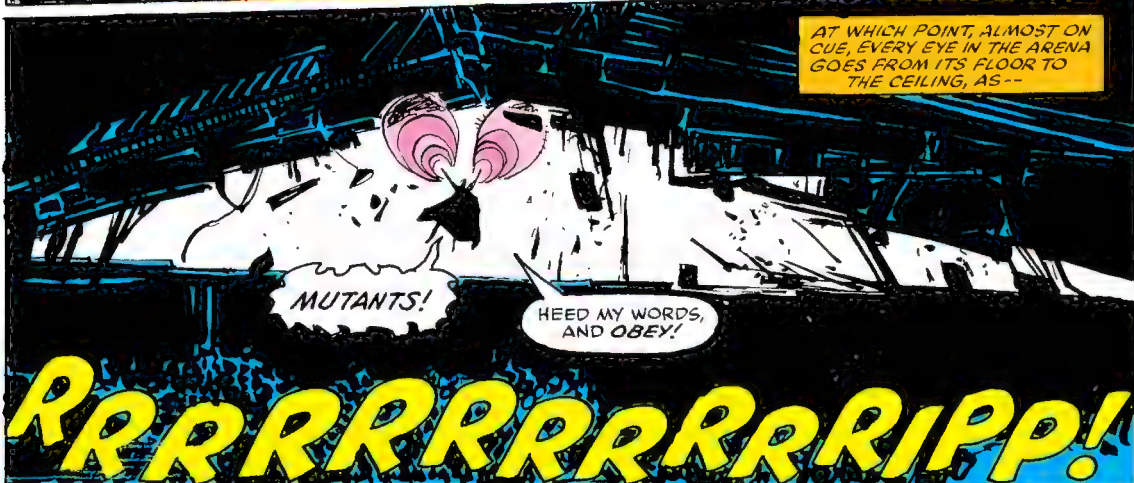
WHOUF!

I CAN'T LET YOU
HURT ANYONE, MAGMA.



AS WITH THE SNAKE-
MAN, ALISON'S BRIL-
LIANT LIGHTSHOW
DAZZLES THE YOUNG
NOVA ROMANI--
MOMENTARILY PARALYZING BOTH MIND
AND BODY.

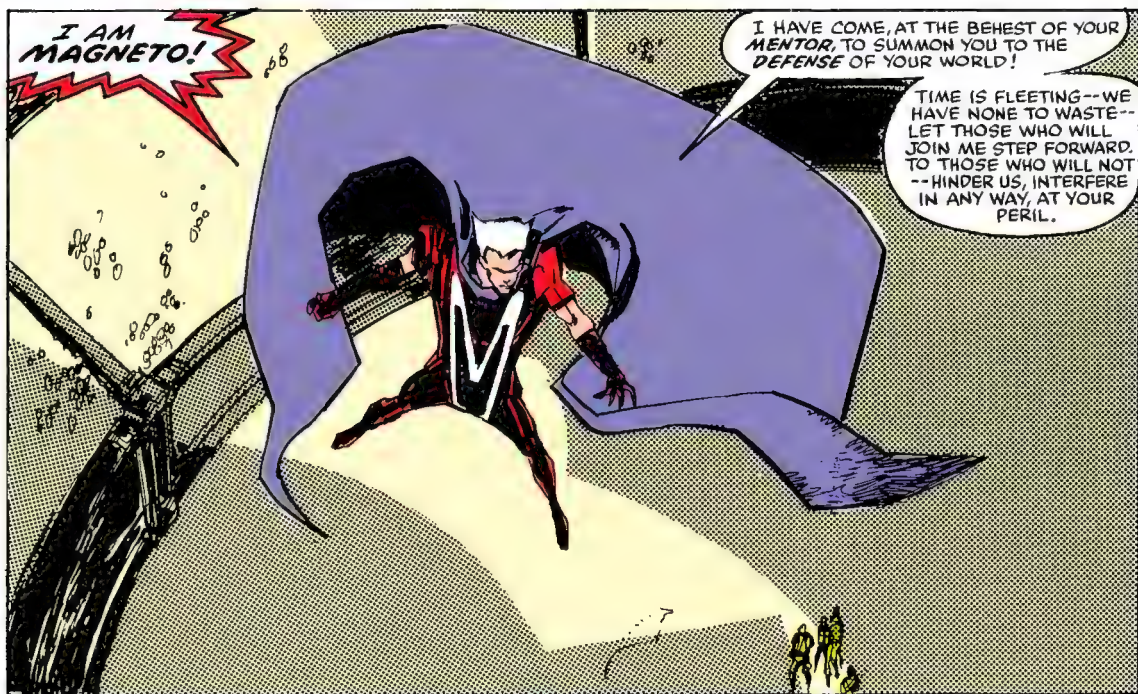
AT WHICH POINT, ALMOST ON
CUE, EVERY EYE IN THE ARENA
GOES FROM ITS FLOOR TO
THE CEILING, AS--



MUTANTS!

HEED MY WORDS,
AND OBEY!

RRRRRRRRRRRRRIPP!



I HAVE COME, AT THE BEHEST OF YOUR MENTOR, TO SUMMON YOU TO THE DEFENSE OF YOUR WORLD!

TIME IS FLEETING--WE HAVE NONE TO WASTE--LET THOSE WHO WILL JOIN ME STEP FORWARD. TO THOSE WHO WILL NOT--HINDER US, INTERFERE IN ANY WAY, AT YOUR PERIL.



MAGNETO--HE'S A VILLAIN, BUT SOMETHIN' IN HIS VOICE MAKES ME BELIEVE HIM!

SUNSPOT, C'MON! HERE'S OUR TICKET OUTTA THIS MESS!

YOU GO, CANNONBALL. WE CANNOT.



WE MUST STAY WITH THE GLADIATORS, COMRADES, WE HAVE GOOD REASON.

YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT, AMARA!

TRUST US, MAGIK, I BEG YOU. AS YOU DO WHAT YOU MUST, SO SHALL WE.



AND, WITH THAT, THE GLADIATORS STEAL AWAY...

THEIR CHOICE IS MADE, LAD, THERE IS NO MORE YOU CAN DO.

BULL! WE MIGHT'A SAVED 'EM, GIVEN A DECENT CHANCE!

WHATEVER'S GOING ON, MISTER, IT BETTER BE IMPORTANT, 'CAUSE IF YOU'RE SPINNING A LINE--!



YOU WILL SEE, CANNONBALL.

YOU WILL LEARN.

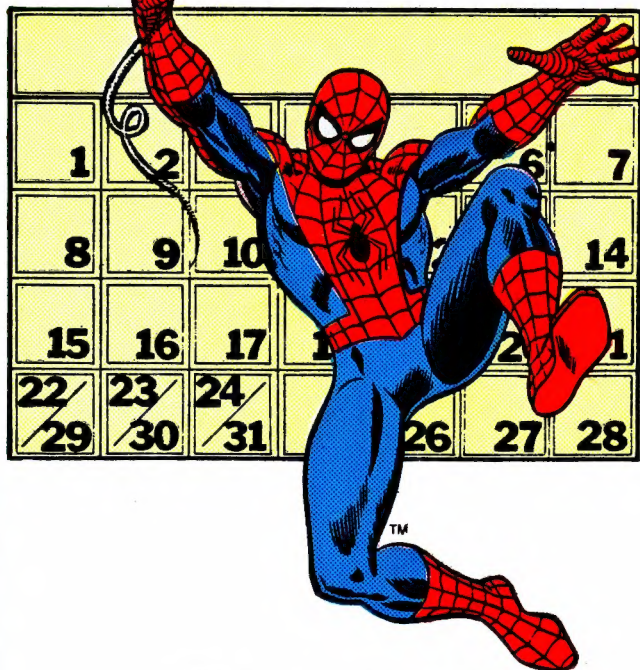
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